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VISAS - INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: CVIS

SUBJECT: CA ANTI-FRAUD BULLETIN 40.5: USE
OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTATION BY AFGHANS SEEKING POLITICAL
ASYLUM

1. SUMMARY: SINCE MID-1981, AGENCIES OF THE USG HAVE PROCESSED APPROXIMATELY 500 REQUESTS FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR AFGHAN NATIONALS WHO HAVE ARRIVED AT U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY IN POSSESSION OF NO TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, OR A VARIETY OF ALTERED OR COUNTERFEIT DOCUMENTS. THE SUSPENSION OF AFGHAN TRANSIT WITHOUT VISA PRIVILEGES IN FEBRUARY, 1982, SEEMS TO HAVE CREATED THE IMPETUS FOR GREATER SOPHISTICATION IN FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTATION WHICH WOULD ENABLE AFGHANS TO BOARD FLIGHTS ENROUTE TO THE U.S. IMMIGRATION INSPECTORS AT SEVERAL PORTS OF ENTRY HAVE BEEN BOMBARDED WITH WEEKLY ARRIVALS OF AFGHANS WHO IMMEDIATELY REQUEST ASYLUM. UNFORTUNATELY, NO CENTRAL ORGANIZED RING HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE SOURCE OF THE VARIOUS COUNTERFEIT PASSPORTS, AND INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REMAINS FRAGMENTED. USINS AND THE DEPARTMENT ARE REVIEWING LEGAL OPTIONS AND PROCEDURES AVAILABLE TO US IN AN ATTEMPT TO CURTAIL THE FLOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DECEMBER 29, 1982, 16 AFGHANS ARRIVED AT NEW YORK IN POSSESSION OF COUNTERFEIT SOMALIAN PASSPORTS AND VISAS ALLEGEDLY ISSUED IN MOGADISHU. THIS GROUP WAS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL GROUPS OF AFGHANS AND IRANIS WHO WERE ABLE TO OBTAIN SOMALIAN TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO ENABLE BOARDING IN INDIA. OUR CONSULATE IN CALCUTTA, IN COOPERATION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES, WAS ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE EVENTUAL ARREST OF TWO OPERATIVES INVOLVED IN THE SUPPLYING OF THE FORGED SOMALIAN PASSPORTS. AT THE TIME OF ARREST, SEIZURE WAS MADE OF AN EQUIPMENT OF OTHER COUNTERFEIT PARAPHERNALIA, INCLUDING TURKISH PASSPORTS AND BRITISH VISA STAMPS.

3. OTHER POSTS HAVE REPORTED EXTENSIVELY ON KNOWN TYPES OF FABRICATED IDENTIFICATION USED BY AFGHANS. THE LIST IS LONG AND COMPLEX. TO SUMMARIZE, WE HAVE VERIFIED THE EXISTENCE OF COUNTERFEIT SOMALIAN PASSPORTS; COUNTERFEIT TURKISH PASSPORTS; COUNTERFEIT AFGHAN PASSPORTS; COUNTERFEIT U.S. VISAS PURPORTEDLY ISSUED IN MOGADISHU, ISLAMABAD AND DACC; VALID FOREIGN PASSPORTS IN WHICH PAGE SWITCHES AND PHOTO SUBSTITUTIONS ARE EVIDENT; AN ARRAY OF FABRICATED EXIT AND ENTRY STAMPS, CACHETS, AND VISAS FROM A DOZEN OR MORE COUNTRIES; AND "BORROWED" AIRLINE BOARDING CARDS FROM NUMEROUS FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CARRIERS WHICH ENABLE THE "AFGHAN" NATIONALS TO BOARD WITHOUT PURCHASING A TICKET. THE LIST IS LONG, AND DEPRESSING AND CONTINUES TO GROW. WHILE USINS HAS NOT INTERCEPTED THE NEWEST COUNTERFEIT, AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF AFGHANS WERE IN POSSESSION OF EXCELLENT REPRODUCTIONS OF CANADIAN PASSPORTS PRODUCED IN NGONG KONG.

4. WE KNOW THAT FIFTEEN (15) DIFFERENT AIRLINES HAVE CARRIED AFGHANS TO THE U.S. FINES HAVE BEEN LEVIED AGAINST THEM AS APPROPRIATE UNDER SECTIONS 273-AND 233 OF THE ACT. SUCH PENALTIES, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT ACTED AS-A CATALYST TO ENCOURAGE CLOSER SCREENING OF THE PERSONS ACCEPTED FOR BOARDING OR CLOSE SCRUTINY OF THE QUALITY OF DOCUMENTATION. LITERALLY, APPROACHES TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF PAKISTAN AND INDIA HAVE HAD MARGINAL IMPACT ON STEINING THE FLOW OF AFGHANS EITHER DEPARTING WITH IMPROPER DOCUMENTATION OR ENTERING THOSE COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO FACILITATE EVENTUAL PASSAGE TO THE U.S. THIS SITUATION IS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE RECENT REFUSAL BY PAKISTAN TO ACCEPT BACK TWO AFGHAN NATIONALS WHO WERE REFUSED ENTRY INTO THE U.S. AS PROVIDED UNDER 8 USC 1237 (A). THIS SETS A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT AND COULD AFFECT A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF OTHER

AFGHANS IN THE NEAR FUTURE IF WE ARE UNABLE TO PERSUADE THESE GOVERNMENTS TO ALLOW THE RETURN OF THOSE ALIENS.

5. THE DEPARTMENT AND INS COULD CO-AUTHOR AN ADVENTURE SERIES BASED ON THE EXPERIENCES RELATED BY EACH AFGHAN NATIONALS. NO TWO STORIES MATCH AND FEW NAMES REOCCUR IN THESE ACCOUNTINGS, BUT SOME SIMILARITIES EXIST IN AIR ROUTINGS AND ASSISTANCE GIVEN BY A VARIETY OF "EXPEDITORS." ALTHOUGH THIS IS A SITUATION WHICH OFFERS NO EASY SOLUTION, INS IS CONSIDERING DEVISING A STANDARD IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW FORMAT FOR ALL AFGHANS TO TRY TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE INFORMATION ON THEIR ROUTES INTO THE US AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ASSISTING THEIR OBTAINING DOCUMENTATION. SHOULD ANY POST RECEIVE INFORMATION THAT MIGHT DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY RELATE TO DOCUMENTATION OR TRAVEL OF AFGHANS, NOTIFY THE DEPARTMENT (VO/FFD) IMMEDIATELY. WE ALSO URGE POSTS TO INFORM LOCAL AIR CARRIERS AND IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS OF USG CONCERN ABOUT AFGHAN MOVEMENT. PLEASE INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF THE TYPES OF DOCUMENTATION BEING USED AND OFFER ASSISTANCE IN VERIFYING SUSPECT DOCUMENTATION. SWLTZ

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A CDO-AR

REVIEWED BY *J. Smith* DATE 9/20/82

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